(a) the percentage of cultivated land that is covered by irrigation in the country;

(b) the addition to this area which occurred in the Tenth plan and the area proposed in the Eleventh plan; and

(c) what has been the cost/acre of providing irrigation in the last three Five Year Plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) As per the information provided by Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, the percentage of net irrigated land over cultivated land during 2006-07 for the country has been 39.1%

(b) Creation of irrigation potential of 8.8 million hectares (mha) during X Plan has been reported by the States. A target of creation of irrigation potential of 16 mha has been envisaged during XI Plan.

(c) Average cost of irrigation potential creation through major, medium and minor irrigation projects/schemes during VIII Plan, IX Plan and X Plan were Rs. 21980 per acre, Rs. 30500 per acre and Rs. 44210 per acre respectively.

Threat of Arsenic Contaminated Water

†701. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that threat of arsenic contaminated water has spread across 31 districts of Uttar Pradesh and 12 districts of Bihar and the level of arsenic in the water samples collected from all these districts has been found to exceed the standards of World Health Organisation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a survey had been conducted by State Government of Uttar Pradesh through UNICEF which revealed the threat of arsenic in 31 districts;

(c) whether an area of 200 Kms. in South-West of Delhi has come under the area affected by arsenic water; and

(d) if so, the action taken so far by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Arsenic in ground water exceeding prescribed limit of 10 ppb (parts per billion) has been reported from some parts of 28 districts of Uttar Pradesh and 15 districts of Bihar.

(b) As per the report of Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam, survey of arsenic contamination of ground water in 51 districts of the State carried out with the assistance of UNICEF, has revealed that some parts of 28 out of 51 districts in the State have been affected by arsenic contamination.

(c) and (d) In the report of Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), no area of South-West District of Delhi has been shown as affected by arsenic.

---

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.